

## **Abstract**

For over two decades, the phenomenon of human trafficking has been at the forefront of international, regional and bilateral interventions globally. During past years, this issue has been profoundly explored, researched, theorized and analysed by the academics, policy makers, national and international nongovernmental organizations, human right activists and the researchers as well at the different platforms. Human trafficking is linked to the great movement of people across boarder. However, traffickers operate within the boarders too. Child trafficking is a fraction within the concept of human trafficking, which becomes an international issue today. Child trafficking is a gross violation of human rights of any child. Further, it is revealed that child trafficking is not restricted to certain countries or regions, it is a global problem.

Being a developing country in South Asia, Sri Lanka also has categorized as 'a source and lesser extend a destination country' with regards to human trafficking. Also, the picture of child trafficking in Sri Lanka can be seen in different way in various forums.

In this backdrop, this study was conducted to ascertain the real situation of child trafficking in Sri Lanka and the underpinning circumstances, the vulnerability of children affected by child trafficking in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** Child trafficking, vulnerability, child victims, exploitation, child rights